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## *How to improve national security*

Your continued interest in and support for national security concerns is to be applauded. It conforms closely to the administration's emphasis on improving personnel security and suitability programs.

In a recent series of articles by Tom Diaz on shortcomings in the

security program, some comments attributed to me may have been misconstrued. I was quoted as expressing approval of the Defense Investigative Service's (DIS) "interview-oriented background investigation" (IBI).

In fact, I was referring to only one

part of the IBI, the in-depth interview with the person being investigated. The remainder of the IBI, interviews with other sources and record checks, is equally or even more important, provided that proper resources are devoted to it. As used by DIS, it is, in our estimate, inadequate for top secret clearance and should be substantially strengthened. In its own review of the IBI as used by DIS, the Department of Defense has come to similar conclusions.

Also, DIS uses the IBI for top secret clearance, not "secret," as I was quoted as saying. It uses the "national agency check" with or without "inquiries" (NAC or NACI) to be entirely insubstantial for that level of sensitivity and would be delighted if the IBI were, in fact, used by DIS for secret clearance, provided it is conducted with adequate resources.

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